

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. Currently Amended) A seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device ~~which moves~~ that is operable to move the seatbelt lock ~~from between~~ an operating position ~~into~~ and a lowered safety position ~~with respect to that is lower than~~ the operating position, said preventative tensioning device comprising: ~~and which comprises~~

an energy accumulator; and

a drive unit[[,]]; wherein,

the energy accumulator is maintained preloaded when said seat belt lock is in the operating position; ~~in that the seatbelt lock is maintained preloaded in the operating position by means of the energy accumulator,~~

the drive unit is operable to transfer~~transferring~~ the seatbelt lock from the safety position back into the operating position[[,]]; and

wherein the drive unit is further operable to move of the tensioning
~~device moves the seatbelt lock from its operating position into a raised comfort~~
~~position with respect~~ that is raised relative to the operating position.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The seatbelt lock as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the energy accumulator is a compression spring which is
connected to the seatbelt lock via a draw-in cable.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) The seatbelt lock as claimed in
claim 1, wherein a rack is fastened to the seatbelt lock and interacts with a
corresponding driven gear of the drive unit.

Claim 4. (Previously Amended) The seatbelt lock as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the drive unit is an electric motor which drives an electric
motor-operated seat adjuster.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Previously Amended) A deflection unit for a seatbelt lock
having a preventive tensioning device, wherein a shaft is provided with a cam
track which is in engagement with a catch and a ratchet gear is provided with a
grooved track which is in engagement with the catch, the ratchet gear being able
to rotate on the shaft between two operating positions.

Claim 7. (Previously Amended) The deflection unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the catch is not in engagement with the grooved track during a preventive tensioning operation.

Claim 8. (Previously Amended) The deflection unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the catch is not in engagement with the cam track during a reversing operation.

Claim 9. (Previously Amended) The deflection unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein, when there are high tensile forces on the seatbelt lock, the ratchet gear can be rotated as far as stops on the shaft.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The synchronizing unit as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 15, wherein the end faces of the locking blocks are designed as tooth flanks.

Claims 12.-13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (New) A seatbelt locking apparatus comprising:

a seatbelt lock that is moveable between an operating position and a safety position, which safety position is lowered relative to said operating position; and

a preventive tensioning device which is operable to move said seatbelt lock between said operating position and said safety position, and which comprises an energy accumulator and a drive unit that are coupled to said seatbelt lock; wherein,

said energy accumulator is maintained in a preloaded state when said seatbelt lock is in said operating position, and is releasable to move said seatbelt lock from said operating position to said safety position;

said drive unit is operable to move said seatbelt lock from said safety position back into said operating position; and

said drive unit is further operable to move said seatbelt lock from said operating position into a comfort position, which is raised relative to said operating position.

Claim 15. (New) A deflection unit for a seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device, said deflection unit comprising:

a shaft;

a ratchet gear which is disposed on said shaft, has a grooved track,
and is rotatable about said shaft, between two positions;

a catch that is engageable with said grooved track on said ratchet
gear; and

a cam track on said shaft, which cam track engages with said catch
to control engagement of said catch with said grooved track.

Claim 16. (New) A synchronizing unit for a seatbelt lock having a
preventive tensioning device for controlling tensioning, reversing and locking of
said seatbelt lock, said synchronizing unit comprising:

first and second locking blocks which are mounted within a spring
housing of a spring for driving said preventive tensioning device, such that said
locking blocks are rotatable relative to each other; wherein,

an axial end of said first locking block abuts and engages with an
axial end of said second locking block under tension of said spring; and

locking and releasing of said preventive tensioning device are
controlled by a relative rotational position of said first and second locking blocks.